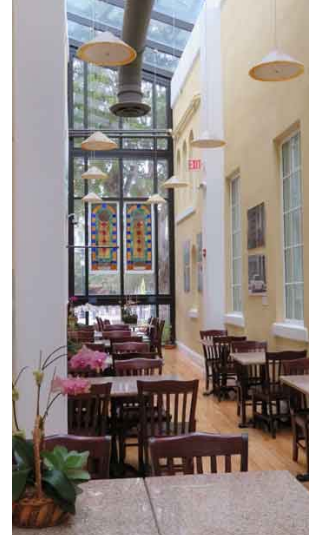




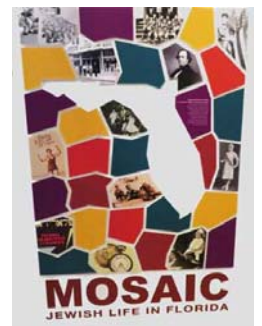
Jewish Museum of Florida

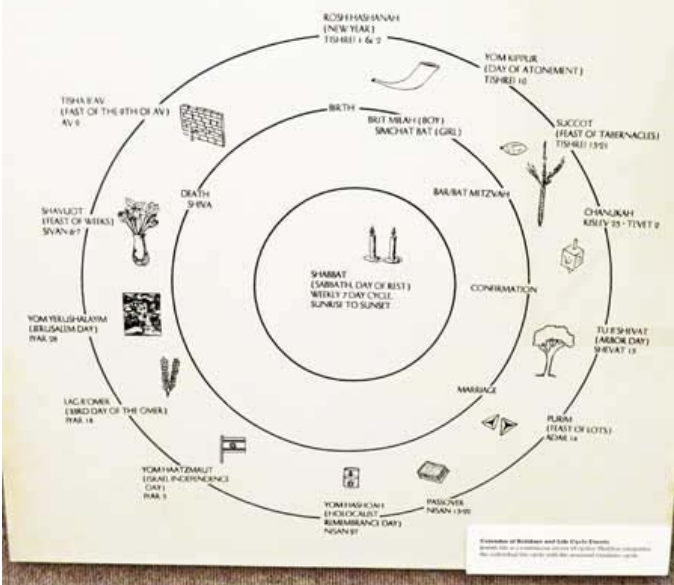
The museum is in two adjacent former synagogues on Washington Avenue in Miami Beach, Florida. The first building, 301 Washington, was built in 1936 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. It features Art Deco, a copper dome, marble bimah and 80 stained glass windows. The second building, 311 Washington, was the first synagogue of Congregation Beth Jacob built in 1929. "Its construction satisfied an urgent need of the small Jewish community of residents and winter visitors who had settled on Miami Beach in 1913. It established that Jews were accepted and are a permanent part of the resident population of the city." <en.wikipedia.org> Prior to 1913, Jews were denied permission to construct a synagogue. The history of discrimination is well documented in the museum. The museum also covers the Jewish experience in Florida from 1763 to today.



"The Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU (JMOF-FIU) is the only museum dedicated to telling the story of more than 250 years of Florida Jewish history, arts and culture, with a growing collection of more than 100,000 items. JMOF became part of FIU in 2012, creating a historic partnership that leverages the resources of the Museum and FIU to ignite a new era of interdisciplinary education and research. Using the lens of the evolving immigration experience of Jews in Florida, JMOF-FIU serves as a forum to promote tolerance, further global understanding and create connections to Jewish culture, history, arts and contemporary civic life for diverse audiences. Accredited by the American Association of Museums, JMOF has achieved a standard of excellence in its methodology for research, collecting, conservation, archiving, storing and interpreting its holdings." <jmof.fiu.edu>

"The Museum is supported by individual contributions, foundations, memberships and grants from the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, the Miami-Dade County Tourist Development Council, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners and the City of Miami Beach, Cultural Affairs Program, Cultural Arts Council, Funding Arts Network." <jmof.fiu.edu/>





Many of the Jewish holidays are designated in the Torah. Rosh Hashanah (the beginning of the Jewish Year), Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement), Succot (Festival of Booths), Passover (Festival of Freedom), and Shavuot (Giving of the Torah) are religious and historical agricultural festivals that are observed with special ritual and prayer. Other holidays were added as they took place in Jewish history. Purim and Chanukah celebrate survival and religious freedom. Today we also have added Yom HaShoah (Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust), Yom HaAtzmaut (Celebrating the Birth of modern Israel), and Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day) to commemorate events that happened in this century.



Yarmulke or Kippah.
A white yarmulke or kippah (head covering) is worn on Yom Kippur as a symbol of the day of purification.



Shema Box.
The shema (prayer) and later in Jewish faith of the psalm, insert and include into the prayer book and used as a symbol of the day of atonement. After the holiday, the box is placed in an empty box for up to a year to preserve its power. The Passover family of Moses has used this shema box since 1977 when it was brought back from Israel as a gift. The Passover given to Moses in their hands.

Shema.
The shema is a sacred book, known as part of the Book of Numbers and the Book of Exodus, before the people to convert to their people and thought on their hopes for the coming year, as well as events of the past year. There are three distinct words that have come down from ancient times. This shema has been used in various languages in the Bible and in the Jewish prayers who could not go in a synagogue could hear it.



"Florida's greatest asset is its diversity of peoples. Among the myriad of immigrant ethnic groups that have passed through our state since 1513, Jews are notable for remaining here and retaining their identity. Like other groups, Jews have actively participated in shaping the destiny of Florida.

Florida's Jews have brought their values, traditions, creativity, visions of freedom and passion to give back to their communities and have left their footprints across the entire state. The Mission of the Jewish Museum of Florida serves as an inspiration for all ethnic groups when we tell stories of how Jews in Florida were unwelcome from the earliest history--and how we overcame discrimination and have contributed in all 67 counties in every area of development of this state and enriched the lives and dreams of all Floridians..." <JewishMuseum poster/exhibit>

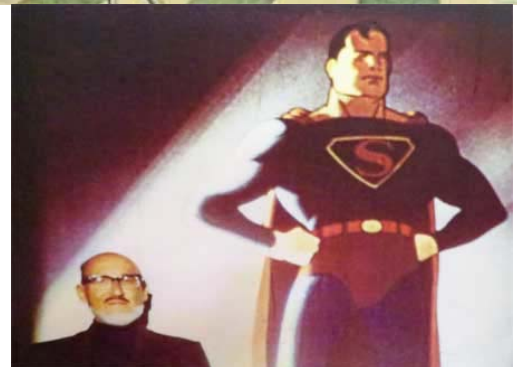


JAY MORTON

Jay Morton, former Miami Beach resident, penned some of the best Superman phrases, including: "Faster than a speeding bullet" and "Look up in the sky. It's a bird. It's a plane. It's Superman!!!" He was born in Hollywood, CA and moved to the Bronx in the late 1920s. He studied studio art at the Pratt Institute in New York before getting a writing job at Fleischer Studios in Miami, the birthplace of Superman on the screen.

Morton moved to Miami in 1937 and became the principal script-writer for Superman in the 1940s, responsible for more than sixty plots. After Fleischer Studios moved to New York, Morton stayed in Miami where he started *The Home News* in Hialeah and helped develop the neighborhoods of Gables-by-the-Sea and Eastern Shores. He served as a member of Dade County's planning advisory board and had close ties to Florida Governors Leroy Collins and Farris Bryant.

Morton passed away in 2003.



"Discrimination" has plagued Jews for 23 centuries. Even the genesis of Jewish life in Florida is a tale of discrimination. From the time that Ponce de Leon discovered Florida for Spain in 1513 and the next 250 years, only Catholics could live here. In 1763 when Florida was transferred to the British, Jews began to settle.

Florida's first constitution, written in 1838, protected its citizens' freedom of religion. No constitution, however, can protect people from individual bias, group bigotry, or the arrogance of ignorant minds. Education offers the only rational hope for understanding and tolerance among all peoples. But even well-educated and well-intentioned people can practice prejudice and discrimination in overt and subtle ways.

Discrimination, as the institutional face of antisemitism, often serves as a catalyst to determine where people live, how they earn their living and how they spend their leisure time. Restrictions were noted throughout Florida in the form of signage, 'No Jews Allowed,' and in property and private club legal documents.

For example, Jews of Miami Beach in the early part of the 20th century had to live south of Fifth Street on property owned from the ocean to the bay by the Lummus brothers who had no antisemitic deed restrictions. On the property north of Fifth Street, owned by Carl Fisher and John Collins, restrictive deed covenants stated, 'Homes will not be sold to any individual who has one-quarter Hebrew or Syrian blood,' or 'property shall not be sold, leased or rented to any person other than of the Caucasian Race.' Jews were considered Semites, not Caucasian, therefore this property was not available to them.

Mount Sinai hospital was established on Miami Beach because Jewish doctors returning from World War II could not get staff privileges in any Dade County hospitals. Jewish golf and social clubs were organized in many Florida communities because Jews were not admitted to those that already existed.

Although social changes in the country and civil rights legislation since the 1960s has put an end to much of the overt discrimination, desecrations of synagogues and harassment of individual Jews still exist.

Antisemitism. Note the spelling in this Museum of antisemitism. Wilhelm Marr, who wished to distinguish his politically active brand for Jews from its predecessors, coined the term in 1879. He chose to preplace Judenfeind or Judenhass (Jew-hate) with a more modern word antisemitismus, arguing that there existed a world Jewish conspiracy, called semitism. His followers, who then called themselves 'anti-Semites,' ardently opposed this theory. Since the notion of a Jewish plan to dominate the world was purely a figment of Marr's imagination, many current scholars prefer to use the spelling 'antisemitism,' rather than the other spelling 'anti-Semitism' that implies that semitism existed and give importance with the capital"-S." <Jewish Museum poster/exhibit>

"Always a view, never a Jew," read one hotel advertisement from the 1930s. Another, from the Coronado Hotel, read: 'Air-conditioned rooms available. Oceanfront luxury at low cost. Gentile clientele.' Others made do with the somewhat more subtle 'Restricted Clientele.' <jta.org>

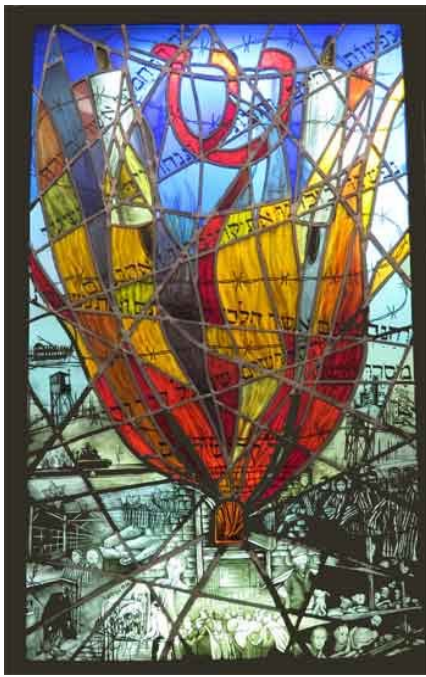


*"Always a View,
Never a Jew."*



Soviet Jewry Poster, Tel Aviv, 1969.
Artist: Dan Reisinger.
Representative of the Jewish National Movement in the USSR (1967-1989), this poster was one of hundreds created to incite activism - underground and open - within the borders of the Soviet Union, around the free world and in Israel.

Speaking Out on Soviet Jewry
During the 1960s and '70s, Jews here protested the Soviet Union's attempts to destroy their Jewish communities, closing down synagogues and denying permissions to emigrate. The Soviets often imprisoned leaders of the Jewish movement and then these prisoners of conscience became the new focus of the international Soviet-Jewish protest movement. Jewish communities in Florida joined others in staging demonstrations, rallies, lobbying in Washington and then sponsoring Soviet Jewish families to resettle in our communities.



Holocaust Remembrance and Education

"The Holocaust remains a central Jewish experience. We recall it so that every generation will bear witness to that most terrible devastation of our people and to remind ourselves that the Jewish future can never be secure unless we stand together as a strong, united, determined community."
 Rabbi Irving Greenberg

Miami Beach Holocaust Memorial, 1990.

Memorials for victims also serve as solace to survivors and a source of education to examine the past in order to learn from it. In February 1990, Elie Weisel dedicated the memorial on Miami Beach, designed and built by Kenneth Treister. The centerpiece is a 42-foot high bronze sculpture of a hand with a number, surrounded by 100 bronze figures who cry out in anguish. Architect Kenneth Treister moved to Miami Beach in 1930 at the age of 6 months. His architecture and sculpture can be seen all over South Florida.



Sources: Jewish Museum exhibits, <https://jmof.fiu.edu/>, <https://jmof.fiu.edu/about/>, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_Museum_of_Florida, <https://jmof.fiu.edu/exhibits/current-exhibits/>, <https://www.miamiandbeaches.com/thing-to-do/attractions/jewish-museum-of-florida-fiu/2723>, <https://www.jta.org/2013/10/23/lifestyle/miami-beach-loves-the-jews-but-it-wasnt-always-this-way> and https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/68870/jewish/Jewish-History.htm.

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